



Head's Message

Theme for next week: Being safe on the Roads

Dear Parents,

The Independent Association of Prep Schools has been very complimentary about the way our schools have adapted to these stressful times, making difficult decisions swiftly and effectively. In particular, they say the support for the children of key workers and vulnerable children is heartwarming. It seems to be the case across the sector that schools advanced with lightning quick speed to develop effective online learning.

Despite the success of a number of aspects of remote learning, the experience has confirmed for us that there is no place like a fully occupied, vibrant school.

During Tuesday afternoon's Coronavirus update, the Education minister Gavin Williamson stated:

'While we are not able to welcome all primary children back for a full month before the summer, we continue to work with the sector on the next steps where we'd like to see schools who have the capacity to bring back more children in those smaller class sizes to do so if they are able to before the summer holidays.'

We are not sure what he means by 'the sector' and we cannot identify anything that gives us a sense of timing and mechanism for delivery. In the absence of any strong direction from the Government we are grateful that IAPS are making an effort to give its members a clear sense of the best direction in which to proceed. Along with the ISC, they are currently seeking further clarification regarding any plans that the DfE may have for pupil returns. Their advice now is for IAPS members to assess the individual situation of each school and plan for other year groups to return if this is feasible. In our case, it would be sensible and is feasible for Year 5 to return.

As regards our preparation for this, we will need to remain mindful of 2m distancing, frequent cleaning of all areas and maximum class sizes. However, it is also still possible that the government will pull back on this guidance during our planning. On balance, I do feel there is a good chance that an additional year group could return.

One of the advantages of running an independent school is the flexibility we have to act in what we believe is the best interests of our pupils. Getting children back to school is the right thing to do, as long as it can be done safely for pupils and staff. Unfortunately, based on the current guidelines, the other year groups can't return. We are, as a result, looking at introducing Microsoft Teams next week so that teachers can make contact with the pupils and conduct a degree of online teaching.

Enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,

Leonard Blom

Courage is fire and bullying is smoke.

Benjamin Disraeli

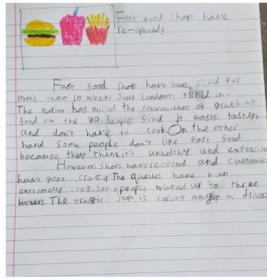
Children in Reception, both in school and at home, have been working hard on their maths, whilst also having a lot of fun, as



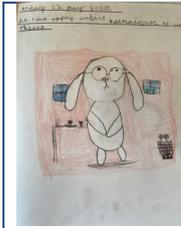
illustrated here on the left by Lara in RBW!



Following on from writing their own weather reports last week, Year 2 have now presented them. There were both fantastic and terrifying forecasts predicted, along with some excellent presentation skills!



Children in Year 2 have been sorting facts from opinions and applying their knowledge to write their own newspaper reports. Mariyah in 2TH has written about fast food and the reopening of restaurants - she's a journalist in the making!



Maria in 2HL has been studying cubism techniques this week and was asked to use a toy to recreate the style learnt. She chose her beloved Jellycat bunny and created a wonderful work of art!

Rosa in 6MG has received a certificate thanking her for the work she has done during lockdown in helping homeless people in her area. She has been collecting clothes and kitchenware for those less fortunate. Well done, Rosa, and thank you for all your hard work!



Year 4 pupils have been busy with their Pop Art topic at home. Their brief this week was to plan and experiment with a design for their Pop Art piece. They were asked to think about some of the styles and features of pop art, including repetition and/or the use of strong colours. Next week, they will be creating their final design and use their planning to feed their ideas!

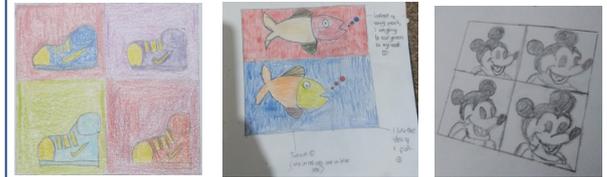


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Year 1 have had fun in PE, taking part in 60 second challenges. This week the challenge has been star jumps and speed bounces. The children have been working in pairs and counting how many they can do in a minute.



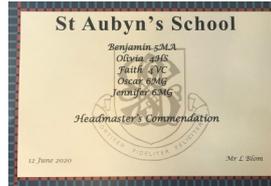
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Two Nursery bubbles, based in the PAC, enjoyed a quiet moment whilst eating their lunch and listening to relaxing music.

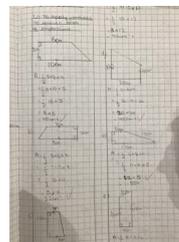


1CM Blue Bubble have had a fantastic week of story writing. They read 'Yeti and the Bird' which they used as inspiration for writing their own stories. Here are the children hard at work, using their iPads to help them include adventurous vocabulary.



Many congratulations to these pupils who were awarded Headmaster's commendations this week. Well done to them all.

On Tuesday, Reception children took advantage of a sunny moment to sit outside and listen to a story.



Rafza in Year 7 has been working very hard in maths this week and her efforts have paid off as illustrated in this excellent piece of work. Well done, Rafza!

Jack in 8SS has been getting creative during lockdown. He has drawn this interesting and highly imaginative montage. Great work, Jack!

